

Application No. 09/483,521  
Supplemental Amendment

Customer No. 01933

**SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended in the Amendment filed March 24, 2004 and the Supplemental Amendment filed April 21, 2004, is respectfully requested.

It is further respectfully pointed out that claims 2-4 (and new claim 16) of the present application are related to "color balance adjustment". More specifically, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 2 (and new claim 16), the chromaticity determination unit determines a region where color balance is to be adjusted in the observation image, and the color balance adjustment unit adjusts color balance in accordance with a color balance adjustment amount arbitrarily set for the region of the observation image determined by said chromaticity determination unit. That is, using the relationships disclosed on page 18 of the specification, for example, the chromaticity is determined for each pixel, and color balance is then carried out only for the pixels which are determined not to be white (i.e., not background pixels). Therefore, in the same way as "tone adjustment" in claim 3, for example, color balance adjustment is carried out for the region of the observation image determined by the chromaticity determination unit (i.e., only for pixels having color data). And it is respectfully submitted that this feature of the present invention as recited in claim 2 (and new claim 16)

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is clearly not at all disclosed, taught or suggested by Ravkin or any of the other prior art references of record.


For this reason also, it is again respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 and 16 patentably distinguish over Ravkin, taken singly or in combination with Shinsky et al, under 35 USC 103, along with patentably distinguishing claims 10-14.

\* \* \* \* \*

In view of the foregoing, entry of these Supplemental Remarks, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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